

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please amend the Abstract as set forth below.

~~MODIFIED OLIGONUCLEOTIDES FOR MISMATCH DISCRIMINATION~~
~~ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE~~

~~Modified oligonucleotides are provided containing bases selected from Methods for designing an oligonucleotide sequence having a selected duplex stability are provided wherein the oligonucleotide portion comprises at least one modified base selected from universal bases, unsubstituted and 3-substituted pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidines and 5-substituted pyrimidines, and optionally [[have]] having attached minor groove binders and reporter groups.~~